

# Nueces Agriculture

“IMPROVING FOOD & FIBER PRODUCTION”

VOLUME 14, ISSUE 5

AUGUST 2021



## 2021 Grain Sorghum Performance Test, S&S Farms, Petronila, Texas

Company	Hybrid	Plants/A	Days to 50% Flower	Plant Height Inches	% Moisture	Test Weight lb/bu	Yield lb/A*
Dekalb	DKS 54-07	39,204	74	54.2	15.9%	58.0	6,642
BH Genetics	BH 5755	43,076	74	51.7	16.3%	58.3	6,572
Dekalb	DKS 44-07	41,624	72	49.7	16.0%	58.0	6,478
Dyna-Gro	DG M71GR91	40,656	73	53.2	16.2%	58.3	6,136
S&W Seed	SP 7715	34,364	72	53.0	16.0%	58.0	5,596
Dyna-Gro	DG M72GB71	34,848	74	49.5	15.8%	57.3	5,426
BH Genetics	BH XPS 4055	40,172	71	48.9	16.2%	55.3	5,342
S&W Seed	SP 68M57	39,688	71	48.3	16.4%	57.3	4,791
Mean		39,204	72.6	51.1	16.1%	57.6	5,873
C.V.		11.84	1.04	2.87	2.27	1.21	6.07
L.S.D. 0.05		N	1.32	2.57	NS	1.22	624.2
		S					

\* Yields corrected to 14% moisture.

For further information about this report, contact Jason Ott, CEA-Ag/NR, Nueces County at (361)767-5223.

### PRIVATE APPLICATOR TRAINING

When:..... Tuesdays, 9/7, 12/7

Pre-Registration Required.....(361)767-5223

Time .....8:00 am—11:30 am

Where.....A&M AgriLife Ext. Office,  
710 E. Main, Robstown, TX

Fee: \$50.00 (Includes study manuals)

A Private Applicator is defined by law as a person who uses or supervises the use of a restricted-use or state-limited use pesticide for the purpose of producing an agricultural commodity.

### FARM WORKER PROTECTION SAFETY TRAINING

When.....Friday, 9/3

Time .....9:00 –11:00 am

Where .....Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Office

Pesticide handlers and workers must be trained every year unless they are certified applicators. All participants in this training will be issued cards verifying they have successfully completed the required training and given a copy of the sign-in roster for their employer’s files.

### Inside this Issue:

WPS and Private Applicator Training 1

Round Cotton Module Wrap and Repair Demonstration 2

Soil Testing Campaign 3

Cotton Stalk Destruction 4

Fall Armyworm Control in Pastures 5

Texas Cattle Brands, Marks, Tattoos Set to Expire Aug 30 6

Master Marketer Program Back to Traditional Format 7

TEXAS A&M  
AGRI LIFE  
EXTENSION



Find us on Facebook at  
NuecesCountyAgriculture

Plastic Contamination from round cotton modules continues to be an issue in the cotton industry. South Texas leads the nation in plastic contamination in cotton. Educational events to help reduce contamination have been requested by area Crops Committee's and industry. Repairing damaged modules in the field or on the gin yard was a key recommended practice recently discussed during the Plastics in Cotton II Seminar.

A Round Cotton Module Repair Demonstration took place on June 15, 2021, at the San Patricio County Fairgrounds in Sinton Texas. The event was hosted by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension San Patricio County. Norlan Sapp and James Cundiff of TAMA Wrap USA were on hand to discuss not only the variations in their wrap products but also what was needed and protocol to repair compromised wrap on a round module. Tom McGonagill, Indeco Products Inc, was also on hand to display and discuss their customized module cover designed to be able to cover and be tied together to protect and move a badly compromised round module.

TAMA Wrap, which is the recommended wrap to be used in the John Deere on-board module building picker system, is available in both a premium wrap- Yellow and Pink, and a value wrap which is Blue. Mr. Sapp further explained that both premium and value wrap are the identical product, however, of the 70 ft sheet, the premium wrap has over 30 ft of tacky material and the value wrap is a non-tacky material, and both have the same adhesive that holds down the tail. He went onto say that the value wrap over time will tend to squat / settle, more than the premium, but both products have performed well in the Coastal Bend environment.

To repair a loose tail or a compromised wrap the product to use is Pressure Sensitive Tape by 3M and can be purchased at your John Deere dealer. This product is available in a 3 inch / 100ft.roll, ( part number NS 5400). This product will not tear and will need to be cut as applied. Steps to repair are as follows:

- Clean area to be repaired with a cotton rag preferably. It is not recommended to use a synthetic fiber due to the possible creation of static electricity that can attract particles that will limit the tape's ability to stick correctly.
- To repair a loose tail, pull the tail back to where it should be and place it flat across the bale. If the tail is wrinkled and will not lay right, cut off as little as possible to get it to lay flat. Begin on one side of the wrap surface and apply the tape approximately 3 feet above the end of the tail and proceed straight down to approximately 3 feet below the tail. Repeat 3-4 times across the surface to the other side. After completing taping perpendicular, put tape on horizontally across the bale to cover the tape going up and down. This should be done at the top and bottom of the perpendicular tape. A third perpendicular application may be needed across the bale where the tail ends if wrinkling could cause a problem.
- To repair a cut or bulge repeat the same steps but the degree of compromise will determine the amount of tape that will be needed to repair the compromise.
- TAMA Cotton Services Support App is available for Android or iPhone. This is a troubleshooting app designed to assist the Producer or Picker Operator in diagnosing wrap issues.
- If the wrap on the bale is extremely compromised, the Indeco Products cover is a good alternative to use that will both protect from weather and conceal to be able to be moved to the gin.



This demonstration was done for educational purposes only to help reduce plastic contamination in cotton and not as an endorsement of products discussed herein. Cotton Ginners have expressed that if the wrap is not compromised when it gets to the gin floor, the probability of plastic contamination from the wrap is extremely small.

# 2021 Soil Testing Campaign

## October 18 - November 19, 2021



Just in time for next year's planting season, the Coastal Bend Soil Testing Campaign will begin October 18 and will run through November 19, 2021. Soil testing is the best way to determine the soil nutrient status of fields and pastures for area producers. Please follow the instructions below to participate in this year's soil testing campaign:

- Obtain sample bags and instructions from the Nueces County Extension Office
- Collect composite samples
- Complete the information sheet selecting the proper test
- Return the sample to the Nueces County Extension Office at 710 E. Main, Robstown, TX, 78380

Not only does soil testing allow growers to make the most out of the value of their land, it is also an important tool when it comes to protecting our area water sources by ensuring that nutrient levels are optimal for crop production while minimizing the potential for excess nutrient runoff.

TEXAS A&M  
**AGRI LIFE**  
EXTENSION

710 E. Main Ave., Ste.,  
Robstown, TX 78380  
Ph: 361.767.5223, Fax:  
361.767.5248  
Email: j-ott@tamu.edu

*The members of Texas A&M AgriLife will provide equal opportunities in programs and activities, education, and employment to all persons regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation or gender identity and will strive to achieve full and equal employment opportunity throughout Texas A&M AgriLife.*

# Cotton Stalk Destruction

*Jeff Nunley, Executive Director, South Texas Cotton & Grain Association, Inc.*

---

Cotton is late across the entire region due to weather conditions this year. I have had numerous calls regarding the upcoming September 1<sup>st</sup> Cotton Stalk Destruction Deadline for Nueces, Kleberg, and Jim Wells Counties. For the past few years, the Texas Department of Agriculture has been reluctant to grant blanket extensions unless to address hurricanes or other extreme weather events. Based on my discussions this week, no blanket extensions are expected at this time.

Based on my conversation with Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation personnel about enforcement of Cotton Stalk Destruction, they will continue to use the “common-sense” approach that they have used for the past few years.

Stalk destruction is an important part of the boll weevil eradication effort. Over the past 3 years, the Foundation has captured weevils late in the season in the southern portion of the Coastal Bend and in the Winter/Garden. These captures are a result of either migration or weevils being brought into the area from the Lower Rio Grande Valley (LRGV) on equipment. In 2020, the first weevils captured in the southern part of the Coastal Bend did not occur until the last week in August. TBWEF is primarily concerned with timely stalk destruction in counties that are on the Zone’s southern border that touch the Lower Rio Grande Valley BWE Zone.

As part of their common-sense approach, TBWEF personnel take into consideration the general condition of fields in the area when conducting an inspection. The goal of TBWEF is to work alongside producers to allow cotton to fully mature, but still protect the eradication investment made by all producers. For a cotton field to be out of compliance with stalk destruction regulations, it must contain hostable material (green squares, blooms, or green bolls). If producers are working to render a field non-hostable, TBWEF personnel will allow time for these fields to come into compliance. In short, it is important for TBWEF personnel and producers to communicate with each other on their intentions for a given field. The closer a field is to the LRGV, the more important it is that the field be brought into compliance ASAP.

Keep in mind that Cotton Stalk Destruction regulations state that cotton is considered destroyed when it is rendered non-hostable. TBWEF considers defoliated cotton to be non-hostable, so if cotton has received a shot of defoliant by September 1<sup>st</sup>, TBWEF personnel would not consider it out of compliance. After the 10-day grace period, if that field continues to contain hostable material, a conversation will need to take place to see what the intentions of the producer are for rendering it non-hostable.

TBWEF’s approach to cotton stalk destruction seems to have worked well over the past few years. While this year may present challenges due to late crop, the need remains for producers to be timely in getting cotton stalks destroyed or rendered non-hostable.

Communication is always the key. You can contact Foundation Regional Manager Darrell Dusek, at (361) 946-0246.

# Fall Armyworm Control in Pastures

Dalton C. Ludwick, Holly Davis, Sonja L. Swiger and David L. Kerns

Extension Entomologists, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service

Recent rainfall events have been a major problem this summer. As a result of this rainfall, fall armyworms (*Spodoptera frugiperda*) are thriving across the northern, central and eastern portions of Texas. Below is some information on the biology of the pest, how to scout for them, and control options to mitigate damage.

## **Biology and Damage**

There are two strains of fall armyworms (FAW): the corn strain and the grass strain. The corn strain usually appears in the spring and early summer and feeds on crops such as corn, sorghum, and cotton. The grass strain, which is the strain that infests hay fields and pastures, generally shows up after significant rain events from mid-July through fall. The corn strain is known for being resistant to pyrethroids, while the grass strain is susceptible to pyrethroids. FAW caterpillars survive and develop better in areas with fertilized or well-watered grasses which can lead to outbreak scenarios. Multiple generations can occur in a short time-period.

FAW caterpillars live for two to four weeks depending on the temperature. Freshly emerged caterpillars will begin to feed on the leaves and make small transparent areas (windowpanes; Fig. 1) giving the grass a frosted appearance. As they grow and molt, the caterpillars will begin to consume the entire leaf. The larger the caterpillar, the more damage they cause. Smaller caterpillars are easier to control. During their last few days as a caterpillar, when they are 1-1.5" in length, they consume about 80% of all the leaf tissue they will consume in their lifetime.

## **Identification and Scouting**

FAW caterpillars are primarily identifiable by two features. The head will have apparent white markings that form an upside down "Y" pattern (Fig. 2). The second feature is that the last couple segments of the caterpillar will have black bumps that form a square or rectangle.

There are multiple methods that are available to scout for FAW caterpillars. The more common method is to get on your hands and knees and closely inspect the grass. During hot days, check the lower parts of the plant or soil surface where they may be hiding from the harsh temperatures. Sweep nets are a very good and easy to use tool for sampling for FAW in tall grass (Fig. 3). Another method is to run your hands across a 1-2 square foot area and knock the caterpillars to the soil surface. Then, simply inspect the soil for dislodged caterpillars.

Regardless of the scouting method, take note of the size of the caterpillars. Smaller caterpillars (<1/2 inch) are less damaging. Larger caterpillar (>1/2 inch) should be treated soon to prevent greater damage. If using a sweep net, then treat at 2 or more caterpillars 1/2 inch or larger per sweep. If making visual inspections, then treat if you have 2 or more FAW caterpillars per square foot. If you are picking up larger numbers of small caterpillars, then treatment is also justified. Most of the time fields are either well below or well above threshold.

## **Control Options**

If the grass is being used for hay and is near harvest, then harvest early to prevent extra feeding damage. However, be aware that the caterpillars may consume the cut hay, so this is not always a wise option.

Insecticide applications should be made early in the morning or late in the evening if possible, to ensure caterpillars come into contact with insecticide. During hotter parts of the day, caterpillars may be out of the canopy and avoid maximum insecticide exposure.

There are many insecticides that can be used to control FAW caterpillars. Pyrethroids are relatively cheap and readily available. These insecticides take roughly three days to achieve maximum effectiveness against small and large caterpillars. Pyrethroid insecticides tend to have a short residual period and can be washed off by rains. This lack of rain fast protection can be a problem with the recent weather and possible overlapping generations of fall armyworm caterpillars. Addition of a product like Dimilin (or generic products with diflubenzuron) can increase the residual control period to 10-12 days, eliminating caterpillars that emerge in that timeframe. Neither pyrethroids nor Dimilin will continue providing control if rain occurs though. Another fairly inexpensive option is Intrepid (or generic products with methoxyfenozide). This product will provide residual control for about 7 days, but it must be eaten to kill the caterpillar and is not rain fast.

If rain is a continuous issue, the only truly rain fast options are products such as Prevathon, Vantacor, or Besiege. All of these products contain the active ingredient chlorantraniliprole, but Besiege also contains a pyrethroid. These products are absorbed by the leaf tissue and are rain fast upon drying. While these products are more expensive, they do provide excellent residual activity and will persist longer at the higher rate. For example, Prevathon at 14 fl-oz/ac will typically provide 14 days control, and a 20 fl-oz/ac rate will provide 20-21 days of control.

For additional questions about FAW control, please reach out to your local County Extension Agent, IPM Agent, or Extension Entomologist. Always use an insecticide according to the label. Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service is not responsible for insecticide applications, damages, or other issues encountered.



# All Texas Cattle Brands, Marks Expire After Aug. 30

*Julie Tomascik, Texas Agriculture Daily*

---

All Texas cattle brands, marks and tattoos are set to expire after Aug. 30 and must be renewed by Feb. 28, 2022.

“Brand owners have a six-month grace period in order to re-register their brands, and that’s beginning Aug. 31 through Feb. 28, 2022,” said Michelle Carlile, assistant director of Law Enforcement, Brand and Inspection Services for the Texas & Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association (TSCRA). “If they fail to re-register their brand during those six months, then their brand is open for anyone to take.”

All brands are registered through the county clerk’s office. “They will need to go directly to the county clerk in the county where their livestock reside,” Carlile said. “So, if they have multiple ranches in different counties, then they would need to go to each county clerk’s office.” Some offices are participating in an online re-registration program. Carlile recommends contacting the county clerk to see if the county is participating. Brand applications and renewals require a drawing of the brand that notes the location on the animal.

“The location of the brand is just as important as the brand itself,” she said. “You and I can have the same brand in the same county as long as the location is different. So, I can brand on the left hip. You can brand on the right hip. So, the location is part of the brand itself.”

Carlile said the fee varies by county, but the average fee is \$26 per brand. Some counties charge an additional \$5 if the brand is on multiple locations.

Although Texas does not have a statewide brand registry database, TSCRA keeps a centralized database for the association’s law enforcement purposes.

“A brand is like a return address for the cattle. So, when the cattle are missing, we can find it quickly in our database and find out who that brand or who that cow belongs to,” Carlile said. “It also prevents theft. Our Special Rangers have spoke about when they’ve interviewed suspects and the suspects have actually told us that they will avoid cattle that have brands on them and go for the unbranded livestock. It’s a good deterrent for thieves not to take branded cattle.”

The registration is good for 10 years and will expire Aug. 30, 2031. Any previously recorded brand, marks and tattoos that have not been re-registered by the Feb. 28 deadline will be considered unclaimed and eligible for registration by another. In Texas, it’s not mandatory to brand livestock. “However, if you do brand your livestock, it is mandatory that you register the brand with the county clerk,” Carlile said. “Failure to do so is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine up to \$500.”

For more information, visit [tscrabrands.com](https://tscrabrands.com) or call 1-800-242-7820 to speak with the TSCRA Brand and Inspection Department.

# Master Marketer Program Back to Traditional Format This Fall

*Jennifer Whitlock, Texas Agriculture Daily*

Each year, the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Agricultural Economics Department offers the [Master Marketer Program](#) to help farmers, ranchers, ag lenders and other agribusiness professionals understand marketing plans and techniques along with a host of other marketing-related skills.



The successful series has graduated more than 1,200 participants from 32 programs. [Graduates of the program indicate](#), on average, they have increased farm or ranch returns by \$35,000 annually.

Although the COVID-19 pandemic forced the series [online](#) in 2020, it is now back as a 64-hour face-to-face program this fall.

The 2021 Master Marketer Program will be held at the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Center in Weslaco from Sept. 28-Nov. 11. After opening with a leveling workshop on Sept. 28, the morning classes are held on Wednesday and Thursday every other week through mid-November.

Topics covered in the opening sessions include budgets, farm policy, developing a marketing plan and marketing tools and strategies. The next meetings include topics on weather, financials, crop insurance, FARM assistance, specialty crops, grain, cotton and livestock fundamentals, ag insurance, legal issues, trading simulations and more.

The sessions will be live-streamed and recorded for those unable to attend the in-person program. The cost for each registrant is \$350, which includes noon meals, educational materials and access to video recordings. [Click here to register](#).

In addition to the Master Marketer Program, AgriLife is offering one-day QuickBooks Pro Desktop Short Courses on Aug. 25 in Amarillo and Sept. 8 in Lubbock.

The sessions, which are conducted by AgriLife Extension Economic Specialists DeDe Jones and Will Keeling, are each limited to 12 participants. Registration is \$75 and includes computer use and teaching materials. No computer experience is necessary. Participants will learn to enter transactions into the program and analyze costs and profits. Contact LaCrecia Garza at 806.677.5625 for registration.

More information on the Master Marketer program can be found [here](#). Specific questions may be directed to AgriLife Extension economist coordinators Samuel Zapata at [samel.zapata@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:samel.zapata@ag.tamu.edu) or 956.968.5581, or to Mark Welch at [jmwelch@tamu.edu](mailto:jmwelch@tamu.edu) or 979.845.8011.

Nueces County  
710 E. Main St., Ste. 1  
Robstown, TX 78380

TEXAS A&M  
AGRI LIFE  
EXTENSION

Visit us online!  
<http://nueces.agrilife.org>



Disclaimer - the information herein is for informational purposes only. Reference to commercial products or trade names is made with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by the Texas AgriLife Extension Service is implied.

The members of Texas A&M AgriLife will provide equal opportunities in programs and activities, education, and employment to all persons regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation or gender identity and will strive to achieve full and equal employment opportunity throughout Texas A&M AgriLife.

Individuals with disabilities who require an auxiliary aid, service, or accommodation in order to participate in any Extension event are encouraged to contact their County Extension Office at 361-767-5223 at least one week in advance of the program in order for proper arrangements to be made.

In the event of a name, address or phone number change please contact the office at:

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service  
710 E. Main, Suite 1 Attn: Ag/NR  
Robstown, Texas 78380  
(361) 767-5223



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jason Ott'.

Jason P. Ott, CEA  
Ag/Natural Resources  
710 E. Main St., Suite 1  
Robstown, TX 78380  
Ph: 361.767.5223  
Fax: 361.767.5248  
Email: [j-ott@tamu.edu](mailto:j-ott@tamu.edu)